



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 9, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Committee Co-chair Chris Benzing, Bill Valentine, Cassie Shirk, John Hartline, Steve McHenry, Susan O'Neill, Don Mulrine, Alice Settle-Raskin, Scott Warner, Yolanda Hipski, Alyssa Hastings, Debbie Bowden, Nancy Nunn, Kimberly Kratovil, Diana-Lynne Hsu, Bill Christopher, Matt Tefteau, Lara Wilson, Tyler Patton, Delegate Mike McKay, Beth Hill, Bill Christopher, Kelly Dudeck, Nancy Nunn, Susan Harrison, Susanne Richards, Yolanda Hipski, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy

Legislative Committee Co-chair Chris Benzing welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:05pm. The Committee reviewed the November 21, 2022 meeting minutes. Co-chair Benzing asked the participants for a motion. Mr. Don Mulrine moved the motion to accept the 11/21/2022 minutes, Alice Settle-Raskin seconded the motion. The 11/21/2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Charlotte Davis reviewed the legislator committee assignments stating that the House leadership assignments have not been announced. Ms. Davis reported that Senator Elfreth took over as subcommittee chair for the Budget and Taxation Committee (B&T). Ms. Davis further stated that the Eastern Shore lacks a representative on this Committee which may be a hurdle in the future. Ms. Davis stated that Delegate Carl Anderton will move to the Appropriations Committee and David Fraser-Hildago will leave B&T and move to Economic Matters. Ms. Davis stated that there have been some changes in the Senate jurisdictions, for example the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee is now Education, Energy and the Environment Committee. Ms. Davis reminded the Committee of upcoming events which include the RMC Legislative Breakfast 1/13, the Inauguration 1/18, and Rural Maryland Day 2/9, and Maryland Day 3/24.

The Committee reviewed the draft legislative priorities and changes were discussed. Changes include the inclusion of language regarding non-emergency health care transportation and rural workforce development. The Committee reviewed the dollar amounts requested and numbers were updated for MAERDAF and MARBIDCO. It was recommended to get cards printed for handouts that contain the infographic and priorities.

Ms. Davis went over the changes in the Rural Communities Improvement Act which includes removing the sunset for RMPHF; expands programming under Entrepreneurship to include, agribusiness development, cooperative development and workforce development; gives the Executive Committee concurrence on the awards; and clarifies text related to the rural Regional Councils. The Committee discussed the possible sponsors for the bill and these may include Senator Hester and Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes. The Committee discussed the Act as an administration bill and they are waiting to learn who the new Secretary of MDA will be.

The Committee discussed the purpose of the protocol calendar and submitting event dates. Co-chair Benzing reviewed the Legislative Committee meeting schedule and participants shared dates of interest that included – Horse Industry Day, 1/30/2023, Forestry Day, 1/31/2023, Tri Industry Legislative Reception, 2/21/2023

Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that RMC is working on the 2023 Rural Issues Survey and asked the Committee to think about questions that should be included.

Co-Chair Benzing asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Don Mulrine made the motion. The meeting ended at 2:42pm.